

## ***Ranking Member Courtney Secures Provisions to Bolster Shipbuilding, Sealift, Airlift in FY24 Committee-Passed National Defense Authorization Act***

### **Background:**

As the Ranking Member of the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee, Rep. Courtney helped secure key priorities to bolster shipbuilding, sealift, and airlift in the committee-passed FY '24 National Defense Authorization Act. At the Subcommittee's markup, Rep. Courtney [stated](#) that this mark comes at an "especially crucial time as we strive to bolster our capabilities to meet our domestic needs and simultaneously support the trilateral AUKUS agreement to provide Australia with a conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarine program."

**Shipbuilding**—Following the subcommittee's bipartisan work to examine shipbuilding industrial capacity and Navy force structure requirements, the bill as amended authorizes 10 battle force ships and increases the Navy's shipbuilding account by \$300 million from the budget request:

- 1<sup>st</sup> funding increment for second boat in Columbia program
- 2 Virginia-class submarines
- 2 DDG 51 destroyers
- 2 guided missile frigates
- 1 LPD
- 1 T-AO fleet oiler
- 1 Submarine Tender

**Sealift and Maritime** – the bill includes several Courtney-led provisions to prioritize the recapitalization and expansion of critical sealift capabilities:

- Used Sealift Market Assessment – the bill requires the Navy to provide an updated report assessing the viability of the market for foreign-built used sealift ships for accuracy and transparency into the availability of foreign vessels.
- Domestic Design and Construction Program – the bill continues Rep. Courtney's efforts in the FY23 NDAA to establish a domestic new build sealift construction program. Specifically, a bipartisan amendment offered by Seapower Ranking Member Courtney and Chair Trent Kelly would push the DOD and MARAD to move forward on this requirement and withholds funds from the Secretary of the Navy until an acquisition plan is submitted on the construction of new sealift vessels. Their amendment also authorizes \$6 million to start the design of a domestic built sealift vessel.
- National Maritime Strategy – the bill authorizes \$2 million to support the Maritime Administration's efforts to implement a National Maritime Strategy as required by the FY23 NDAA.

***Aircraft and Projection Forces Capabilities:***

- B-21 Raider – fully authorizes the budget request of \$2.3 billion to support the bomber modernization program.
- KC-46A – fully authorizes the budget request of 15 air refueling tankers for the United States Air Force, powered by Pratt and Whitney engines.

***Support for the AUKUS Alliance:***

- Foreign Disclosure and Foreign Military Sales – the bill includes a bipartisan amendment with Rep. Gallagher (R-WI) for the Department of Defense to report on personnel gaps and prioritize a hiring strategy for Foreign Disclosure and Foreign Military Sales Officers in support of AUKUS.